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## *Merry Christmas*

*from*

*Sheriff Charles S. McDonald  
& the Henderson County Sheriff's Office*

### *Upcoming Events*

**Holiday Pill Collection Event** hosted by the School Resource Deputies

- Wednesday, December 20, 2017
- Sam's Club (300 Highlands Square Drive)
- 9am-1pm

**Henderson County Tax Sale**

- Wednesday, January 17, 2018
- Henderson County Courthouse (200 North Grove Street)
- 10am

### **Church Security Class**

- Tuesday, February 20, 2018
- Henderson County Courthouse (200 North Grove Street)
- 6pm-8pm
- (Registration is full for the 1/16, 1/25 & 2/8 classes)

### *Shop With A Hero*

Shop With A Hero was held on December 4th and involved representatives from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office along with Hendersonville Police Department, Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, Blue Ridge Community College Police Department, Fletcher Police Department, Asheville Police Department, Columbus Police Department, City of Hendersonville Fire Department and Asheville Fire Department.



Five students from each of the Henderson County Public Elementary schools were given \$100 to spend in Wal-Mart on gifts for themselves and their families. School counselors chose students based on a variety of reasons ranging from financial need to those who display leadership potential. The students were paired with local first responders as they shopped, ate lunch and explored fire trucks and rescue vehicles.

Thank you Wal-Mart, Elks Lodge 1616, Hannah Flanagan's and the Aflac Regional Office in Asheville for making this event possible. A big thank you to Lt. Mike Vesley from the Hendersonville Police Department for organizing the event.

There were so many smiling faces - and the biggest ones were worn by those in uniform!

**[View the Time-News photo album](#)**

**[Read the Times-News article](#)**



### *Re-Gifting for a Cause*

As part of the Shop with a Hero event, law enforcement and fire department heroes were entered into a raffle by Wal-Mart and the event organizers as a thank-you for their service.

Captain Corthell, Deputy Payne, Telecommunicator Ford, Deputy Jacobsen and Detention Officer Adams (not pictured) all won prizes in the raffle. In this season of giving, these team members decided to donate their winnings to benefit the HCSO STAR Program! The gift cards will be used to purchase camp supplies and the TV and drone will be raffled off to benefit Camp STAR.

Raffle prizes:

- 58" Samsung UHD TV
- Breeze 4K #myflyingcamera drone

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and can be purchased from any School Resource Deputy. Drawing will take place December 22, 2017 at 10am. Tickets are also available at the Sheriff's Office lobby.

We thank these five for their commitment to serving others and how much they care about our STAR program!



### *Giving Back is Always in Season*

We have a group of VIPs (Volunteers in Partnership) who diligently deliver food with Meals on Wheels each and every week. VIP Menyhard, VIP Fletcher and VIP Novella (not pictured) complete routes on Tuesdays and Thursdays as part of a great partnership with The Council on Aging for Henderson County. VIP Menyhard has been delivering meals to home bound adults for a decade!



Beyond their regular duties, like fingerprinting and courthouse security screening, the VIPs have been providing traffic support and assistance to many wonderful events this season like the WNC Tractors for Tots and the Storehouse's Blessings in Boxes.

Thank you to all our VIPs for the time, energy and effort they donate to make Henderson County a better place - no matter the season!

If you would like to learn more about the VIP Program, visit the VIP webpage at [www.hendersoncountync.org/sheriff/vip.html](http://www.hendersoncountync.org/sheriff/vip.html) or call their office at (828) 698-5055.

### *Holiday Food Drive*

For the second year in a row, Cpl. Cox has headed up a Sheriff's Office food collection drive to benefit the Henderson County Public School's backpack program.



Cpl. Cox shared that over 50% of children in the public school system in Henderson County qualify for free or reduced lunch. The backpack program sends food-insecure children home with food items throughout the school year and holidays.

Cpl. Cox collected donations from across the Sheriff's Office during November and the first part of December and delivered the food to Sugarloaf Elementary. Principal Newcomer accepted the donations and said they would be put to good use.



### *Shop Safely this Holiday Season*

Sheriff Charles McDonald and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office reminds the public to keep safety in mind as they complete their holiday shopping. The hustle and bustle of the season provides identity thieves

and other criminals a favorable environment with increased opportunities to take advantage of unsuspecting customers.

"Do not be distracted," said Sheriff McDonald of the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. "Keeping aware of your surroundings is the most important advice we can give to holiday shoppers."

- A single shopper is the best target for theft. Always shop with a friend or relative.
- When going shopping, tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you to return. Also, make sure they know what you are wearing, as well as the type of vehicle you are driving.
- Shop during daylight hours. If you shop at night, park your vehicle in a well-lit area. Note where your car is parked so that you can walk directly back to your vehicle, without wandering, when you return.
- **Lock your car doors** and keep all purchases and items locked in the trunk.
- Dress casually and comfortably and avoid wearing expensive jewelry. Travel light in terms of your personal and financial information. If carrying cash, keep it in your front pocket rather than in a purse or wallet. This makes it much more difficult for a pick-pocket to remove. Also store car keys in a pants or jacket pocket. If your purse is stolen, you will still be able to drive home.
- Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Keep purses zipped and snapped closed. Do not leave your purse unattended in your shopping cart.
- When returning to your vehicle, check around it and in the back seat. Be aware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Have your car keys in your hand to avoid spending unnecessary time unprotected from the security of your vehicle.
- If you feel uneasy returning to your vehicle alone, find a security guard and ask them to walk you to your car.

- If shopping with children, make a plan in case you are separated from one another.
- Fill out a family safety profile before you shop at [www.smart911.com](http://www.smart911.com). Photos and information can assist telecommunicators and first responders in the event children wander off or go missing.

### *Honor Guard*

A beautiful and somber photo of the Henderson County Law Enforcement Honor Guard members Deputy Tweed, Sgt. Gutierrez (Fletcher Police Dept.) and Deputy Dunn paying tribute to EMS and Rescue Squad member Brett Corn. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to Brett Corn's family, co-workers and friends.



### *Take Care of Each Other*

The holidays are a joyous season; but for many, it can be a very challenging time. If you or someone you know are in need of assistance (addiction services, mental health services, housing assistance or other needs), please reach out and take advantage of the resources and programs provided in Henderson County. Our partners at [Hope Rx](#) have assembled a great two-page [resource guide](#) to help direct residents to the services they need.

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